

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1 - 42 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 8, 15-17, 25, 42 and 43 stand rejected. Claims 4-6, 9-14, 18-24 and 26-41 are considered allowable but objectionable as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

The undersigned attorney conducted a telephonic interview with the examiner on April 20, 2004 during which the examiner agreed that claim 23 would also be allowable if further amended to replace the word "is" with --comprising at least one of-- and also replacing the word "or" with --and--. The amendments noted below find support in the original claims or are clerical in nature. Thus, no new matter is added.

Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice.

Allowable claim 23 is rewritten in independent form.

Claim 23 is further amended in accordance with the above-noted agreement.

Claims 2-4, 8, 15-20, 22 and 24 are amended for the sole purpose of changing the dependency to claim 23 in view of the amendment cancelling claim 1.

Claims 25, 42 and 43 are amended to include the structural limitations found in allowable claim 23.

## **35 USC § 102 REJECTIONS**

Claims 1-3, 8, 15-17, 25, 42 and 43 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Thompson et al.* (US 5,285,559).

Rejected claim 1 is canceled. Rejected claims 25, 42 and 43 now include the structural limitations of allowable claim 23. Rejected claims 2-3, 8, 15-17 now have allowable claim 23 as a base claim. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment

overcomes the rejection and objections.

### **CONCLUSION**

For all of the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record. The fee for the request for an extension of time is submitted herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee due for this response and to credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 13-0010 (IO-1015US)**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 21, 2004

  
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